

THE OPPOSITION

To the Civil Service Law is Rapidly Materializing.

MATTER BEING CANVASSED

Among the Republican and Democratic Congressmen.

ONLY THE COMPLETE REPEAL

Of the Measure will Satisfy the Democratic Minority, While the Republicans Desire but a Modification of the Law--It is Claimed, However, that a Compromise Bill will go Through and Have a Good Chance of Passing the Senate and Receiving the President's Signature.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 12.—The outlook for hanging up the civil service law is being actively canvassed among Republican members of the house as a result of the conference held Saturday night. The members of the special committee having the matter in charge are trying to so shape a bill that it will command the support of a number of divergent elements.

One of these is the Democratic minority, which, combined with the Republicans opposed to the present law, would be strong enough to carry a bill. But in canvassing the situation it has been found that Democratic members would favor a complete repeal of the law, but would oppose anything short of a repeal.

As the Republican movement is not toward complete repeal, but rather for modification of the law, there appears to be no basis upon which the anti-civil service reformers of both parties can unite. It is claimed, however, that a modification bill will receive the votes of two-thirds of the Republican members and have a good chance of passing the senate and receiving the President's signature.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

Little Done in Either House--Vote on Immigration in the Senate.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 12.—Excepting the reporting of the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill, which is to be considered to-morrow, the house did no public business to-day. The entire session was consumed in adjusting a personal dispute between Mr. Hepburn, of Iowa, and Mr. Norton, of Ohio, which grew out of a controversy that occurred last week, during the debate on the pension bill. The point at issue was as to whether a certain word used by Mr. Norton, but which he afterward disclaimed any intention of using, should appear in the permanent record.

The house, by a party vote, 136 to 121, sustained Mr. Hepburn.

Mr. Lodge, of Massachusetts, made an effort in the senate to-day, to secure an immediate vote upon his immigration bill, which is substantially the same measure that was passed by the Fifty-fourth Congress and vetoed by President Cleveland. Mr. Allen, of Nebraska, objected to an immediate vote and suggested that the final vote on the amendment and the bill be taken on Monday, January 17, at 3 p. m. This suggestion was accepted by Mr. Lodge and the order for a vote at that time was made. Mr. Gorman, chairman of the Democratic steering committee, presented an order which was adopted, rearranging some of the committee assignments of some of the Democratic members made necessary by the incoming of some new members.

Will Redem Pacific Bonds.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 12.—Secretary Gage has issued a public notice to the effect that on Friday, December 24, 1897, the treasury department would be prepared to begin the redemption, without rebate or interest, of the bonds issued in aid of the Pacific railroads, commonly known as currency notes and maturing January 1, 1898, and that checks will be mailed on December 24 in payment of principal and interest to maturity of all bonds presented before that date. The aggregate of the bonds maturing on January 1, is \$29,944,952, of which \$10,614,120 was issued in aid of the Central Pacific, \$10,919,512 Union Pacific, \$1,425,000 Kansas Pacific, \$320,000 the Central branch of the Union Pacific, and \$1,625,320 the Sioux City & Pacific.

Wheat Yield 530,000,000 Bushels.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—The agricultural department issued the following:

The special wheat investigation instituted by the department of agriculture indicates a crop of 530,000,000 bushels. These figures are subject to slight modification in the final report.

Letter Carriers' Bonds.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 12.—Postmaster General Gary has amended regulations so as to require that after April 1 next, the bond supplied by letter carriers for the faithful performance of their duties shall be that supplied by surety companies.

FEDERATION OF LABOR.

Seventeenth Annual Session Opened, Secretary and Treasurer's Report.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 12.—The American Federation of Labor began its seventeenth annual session in this city to-day, with an attendance of more than one hundred delegates from different states, and an equal number of visitors.

After the meeting had been called to order, William Ammon, of the local typographical union, delivered an address of welcome in the behalf of the labor organizations of the city.

President Gompers responded to the address, thanking Mr. Ammon and the labor organization for the hearty welcome accorded. The report of the committee on credentials was presented, after which President Gompers read his annual address.

Vice President McGuire presided at the afternoon session, which was well attended. Secretary Morrison presented a report, showing an increase in revenue of \$2,400 over the previous year.

An extra amount had been expended in organization and 31,200 new members were enrolled. The greatest item of expense was \$3,750 for organization and \$1,200 for the maintenance of the union.

At the close of the session, the delegates among the miners during the

great strike. Expenses for the year were \$10,113. The report stated the Federation, the organ of the Federation, had been increased in size, at an increased expense, but receipts had exceeded expenditures. During the year, the report states, 775 strikes had been officially noticed, involving 16,107 workers. Of these 123 were won, 51 compromised, and 33 lost. During the year, 217 charters were issued to national, state, central and local labor unions. Two charters for state federations were issued to Ohio and Missouri. The report says the indications are favorable for a continuance of the use of the labels. The secretary recommends that the per capita tax for local and federal labor unions to the Federation be increased from one to five cents per member. Treasurer John B. Lennon then submitted his report showing the income of the Federation from November 1, 1896, to November 1, 1897, to be \$21,808 and the expenses \$19,113, leaving a balance in the treasury of \$2,694 which, added to \$1,000, now in the hands of the secretary, gives a total balance of \$3,694. The report was referred to the committee on treasurer's report.

All resolutions offered under the program were referred to committees. The credentials committee made an additional report, showing ninety delegates had reported. The convention adjourned until 8 o'clock to-morrow.

MINERS' WAGES.

Operators to Meet Next Week to Adjust the Wage Scale.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 12.—A meeting of coal operators of the Pittsburgh district will be held here next Monday to prepare plans for the joint wage conference of operators and miners the following day. The "true uniformity committee" will meet on Thursday of this week to hear the report of the secretary on the number of signatures obtained to the agreement. From present indications it is not at all likely that the required number of signatures will be obtained.

Many of the large mines in the Pittsburgh district have suspended operations owing to the close of the lake shipments and many others are preparing to shut down for the winter.

A number of operators were spoken to relative to the mining rate for 1898. All are unanimous in the opinion that it will be made to change the machine mining differential from one-half of the present mining rate to three-fifths, but this the machine operators declare will never be conceded.

Printers' Strike May be Averted.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—President Samuel B. Donnelly, of Typographical Union No. 6 at a meeting of the union held in this city to-night, announced that sixty-five of the one hundred and two publishers had granted the request of the union for a nine hour day. About twenty book machine offices also consented to a nine hour day. President Donnelly said that the other officials would doubtless come into the compact and that the impending strike will probably be averted. Further conferences will be held to-morrow with the dissenting publishers, reports of which will be handed in at the meeting of the union to-morrow night.

A Train of Suicides.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Dec. 12.—Mrs. Huffman, the wife of a Big Four railroad employe, at Brightwood, attempted to commit suicide last night by swallowing carbolic acid. To-day her condition is such as to give hopes of her recovery. A few weeks ago her daughter, Etta Huffman, succeeded in killing herself by the use of the same acid. The daughter's lover, a young man named Phillips, had shot himself to death, and this was assigned as a reason for the girl's act. It is supposed that grief over the tragic death of her daughter caused Mrs. Huffman to take her own life.

Three Children Burned to Death.

BRADFORD, Pa., Dec. 12.—At Augustine, a small lumber town near the line between Warren and Elk counties to-day three children were burned to death. Mrs. John Frederick, a resident of the place, arose about 5 o'clock to start the kitchen fire. She used kerosene oil. The house and its contents were destroyed and three children burned to death. Mrs. Frederick rescued an infant which was so badly burned that it may die. The woman herself was seriously burned.

Fought a Draw.

CINCINNATI, O., Dec. 12.—Oscar Gardner, the "Omaha Kid," and Eugene Bezenah, of Cincinnati, fought a fifteen-round draw here to-night, at the People's Athletic Club. Gardner in addition to being six pounds lighter, had much the worst of it in height and reach. He forced the fighting during the whole contest and scored three points to Bezenah's one. The referee declared the contest a draw, amid much dissatisfaction.

German Farmer's Awful Deed.

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, Dec. 12.—A terrible tragedy has occurred at Middletown, forty miles north of here, Fred Barth, sr., a prosperous German farmer, without warning fatally shot his wife, cut his daughter's throat and then attempted suicide by severing the veins of his wrist. The father and daughter will die. Barth was arrested. He will assign no cause for the deed. He is apparently sane.

Luerfelt Jury Completed.

CHICAGO, Dec. 12.—The Luerfelt jury for the second trial was completed this afternoon, and to-morrow the second real trial of the sausage maker will begin. Attorneys Harmon and Helse, in their defense of A. L. Luerfelt, have decided to make a strong fight on the point of the corpus delicti. They have been making a special study of the law covering this point.

Urrant to be Revenanted.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 12.—Upon motion of District Attorney Barnes, W. H. T. Durrant, the murderer of Blanche Lamont and Minnie Williams, was today ordered by Judge Bowers to reappear for sentence on Wednesday morning.

Razor Relieves His Troubles.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Dec. 12.—Walter S. Walsh, a wholesale shoe merchant at No. 23 North Fifth street, committed suicide to-day by cutting his throat with a razor. Business troubles threatened the act.

Killed by a Train.

HELLEFONTE, Pa., Dec. 12.—Allen E. Jine, aged two years, met death in a singular manner here to-day. A piece of peach became lodged in his windpipe and he choked to death.

Lived a Week with a Broken Neck.

LANCASTER, Pa., Dec. 12.—Frank Miller, of Manheim, who was struck by a train which was helping to cut down a tree which was a week ago, is dead. He had lived a week with a broken neck.

NOT SETTLED YET.

Ex-Secretary of State W. E. Chilton and His Bondsmen

OFFER BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

Notes to the Amount of \$8,000, Four and Five Years with Interest in Settlement for the Book and Seal Deficiency—This May be the Best the State Authorities Can do—The State will Look to the Corporation for \$17,000 Due on Initial Charter—If the Former Deficiency is not Paid To-day the Attorney General will Enter Suit Against Chilton and His Bondsmen.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer. CHARLESTON, W. Va., Dec. 12.—The board of public works met again this afternoon to consider a proposition from ex-Secretary W. E. Chilton and his bondsmen, F. D. Enslow, of Huntington. Mr. Enslow came up early this morning and was closeted with Mr. Chilton, ex-Governor MacCordle, and some capitalists most of the day. Late in the afternoon the board of public works received word that Mr. Chilton and his bondsmen were eager to make some kind of a settlement, and they at once went into session.

Mr. Enslow presented notes to the amount of \$8,000, endorsed by Frank Woodman and A. E. Humphreys, two wealthy men of this city, and further secured by a vendor's lien. The notes bear 8 per cent interest and are payable four and five years from date.

The amount of the notes lacked but \$250 of paying the deficiency on the book and seal account, and the bondsmen agreed to pay the balance.

The board considered their proposition for some time, but decided that as the book and seal accounts were cash transactions, they too, must demand cash from Mr. Chilton.

The securities are absolutely safe, but the long term for which they are given make them difficult to negotiate. Should this amount be settled it is likely the board will look to the corporations for the payment of the \$17,000 due on initial charters. They will be obliged to pay or have their charters cancelled. The corporations undoubtedly will make up this deficiency and look to Mr. Chilton for payment.

Should the book and seal deficiency be not paid by to-morrow, it is thought the attorney general will institute suit immediately against Mr. Chilton and his bondsmen.

Governor Atholson and the other members of the board of public works are to be congratulated upon the wise course they have pursued. As guardians of the state's treasury, they have exercised their best judgment in securing the amount due, and have given Mr. Chilton and his bondsmen an opportunity to make sales of real estate so that the amount could be liquidated.

The \$32,000 received by Mr. Chilton for his coal lands was nearly absorbed by old judgments and debts, and he had but the \$8,000 left to apply on the shortage. It is thought, however, he will be able to secure the balance of \$17,000 through friends again.

The board of public works will meet again to-morrow.

EASTHAM'S STORY

Of the Killing of Thompson—Says He Would not Have Molested Him if He Had not Fired First.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

PARSONS, W. Va., Dec. 12.—It was fully expected that the defense would conclude its case in the Eastham trial this morning, but on the contrary it has not yet completed it.

All interest to-day centered in the testimony of the defendant, himself, who came on the stand at 3:10 o'clock this afternoon. He denied many of the threats proven against him, and tried to explain away the others. He admitted assaulting Thompson in the car, calling him a vile name, and ordering him out, but said he had intended him no further injury and that would have ended it, had not Thompson drawn a revolver.

He swore Thompson shot him twice, before he returned the fire, from his pocket. Drowning the blood bedraggled and bullet rent garments he wore in the affray, he took up the fatal pistol, and dramatically told his version of the encounter. He will finish to-morrow.

Wolcott's Case Appealed.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer. HUNTINGTON, W. Va., Dec. 12.—The case of Frank Wolcott came before Judge McGinnis, of the criminal court, this morning, on a motion to set aside the verdict of the jury. After argument of counsel the court overruled the motion and the prisoner was sentenced to imprisonment for ninety days. A writ of appeal to Judge Donahoe's court was made by the defense and a stay of execution was granted for sixty days.

SURPRISED CINCINNATI.

Henry Probasco, a Wealthy Retired Merchant, Makes an Assignment.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 12.—One of the most startling assignments is that of Henry Probasco, made to-day. Mr. Probasco has been retired from business for more than thirty years and has been living in one of the most elegant and costly homes in the suburbs of Cincinnati. He has assigned to Beth C. Foster. The assets are put down at \$200,000 and the liabilities at \$100,000.

No reason is given for the assignment. Mr. Probasco in 1871 moved to the city of Cincinnati the beautiful bronze fountain which is located on Fifth street, between Vine and Walnut and which has been admired by thousands of visitors. He has been popularly known as a man entirely beyond the vicissitudes of hard times or business depression and hence the surprise caused at his assignment. He is seventy-seven years old.

Let 'Em Come.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 12.—In an interview published this morning, Eugene Deuprey, the attorney who is making such a fight for Theodore Durrant, gives warning of sensational developments. He says Durrant will not hang in January, as is generally expected, and declared he will eventually go free. The attorney says revelations are soon to be made in the case that will cause a profound sensation. Deuprey says they are on the track of the real murderer and that arrests will soon be made.

MOTHER MCKINLEY'S FUNERAL.

All Preparations for Obsequies Completed. Programme at the Church—Many Floral Tributes and Condolences.

CANTON, Ohio, Dec. 12.—The caquet bearing the earthly remains of Nancy Allison McKinley is already nearly buried in a sea of flowers. All morning the express wagons have been carrying their loads of floral offerings to the memory of the beloved departed. They come to Miss Helen McKinley, the president's sister, who through all the trials of the past ten days has scarcely left the bedside of her dying mother, day or night. But messages of sympathy and tokens of reverential regard come from greater distance than flowers can carry. The wires and the mails are overloaded with kind words of condolence in tribute to the memory of a model American mother.

President Faure, of France; American ambassadors abroad, United States consuls, the ambassadors of other countries stationed at Washington, governors of states, judges, United States senators, congressmen and other public life officials, Grand Army posts and friends by the thousands from all parts of the civilized world have to-day sent expressions of their sympathy to the home of the departed mother of the President of the United States.

The funeral services will open with a chant, "Still, Still With Thee," by the Aeolian Quartet, which will render all of the music of the service. This will be followed by prayer by Rev. E. P. Herbruck. Two hymns which were special favorites of Mother McKinley have been chosen to be rendered by the quartet. Rev. Dr. Milligan, of the Presbyterian church, will announce "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," and Rev. Roper, of the Baptist church, "Nearer, My God, to Thee." The quartet will also render "Lead, Kindly Light." A scriptural lesson will be read by Rev. Dr. John Hall, of Trinity Lutheran church, and a brief address will be delivered by Rev. Dr. Manchester. Benediction will be pronounced by Rev. Dr. McAfee, of the Broad street Methodist church of Columbus, who was the President's pastor while he was governor of Ohio. After the service an opportunity will be given the congregation to view the remains.

All about the city and in various manners is the sorrow over the death of Mother McKinley manifested. Flags on the court house, city hall and other public buildings have floated at half mast all day. The Business Men's Association at a meeting this afternoon decided to suspend business during the hours of the funeral from 1 to 3 o'clock by closing their stores and offices. Information was received to-night that a party of cabinet officials left Washington to-day for Canton, and preparations have been completed for their reception to-morrow. President McKinley kept close within doors during the greater part of the day, but took a short walk near his home late this evening, this being the only exercise he had taken since a walk early this morning.

THE CABINET MEMBERS

On Their Way to Attend the Funeral Services Over Mrs. McKinley's Remains.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 12.—The members of the cabinet who will attend the funeral of Mrs. McKinley, mother of the President, in Canton to-morrow, left Washington at 7:30 to-night over the Pennsylvania railroad. There were in the party Secretary and Mrs. Alger, Attorney General and Mrs. McKenna, Postmaster General Gary, Secretary Wilson, Secretary Bliss, Mr. Porter, Secretary of the President, and Mrs. Porter. The party will reach Canton about 10 o'clock Tuesday morning, and will leave for Washington that night. The President will return with them, and there will be in addition several of the President's personal friends from Canton.

The white house will be closed to visitors to-morrow, and the flags on all of the public buildings will be at half mast, but the departments will not be closed.

There were a number of floral tributes from the members of the cabinet and the cabinet train, also one from Vice President Hobart and one from Secretary and Mrs. Porter.

EX-COMPTROLLER ECKELS

On the Currency Reform Recommendations of the President.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 12.—Ex-Comptroller of the Currency James H. Eckels, when asked to-day if he agreed with the recommendations as to the currency made by President McKinley in his recent message to Congress, said: "I think they are very good as far as they go."

"He does not go far enough, in my opinion, when he says certain things ought to be done if possible. Things that ought to be done should be done, especially when they so vitally touch the country's business life. The President admits that the \$346,000,000 greenbacks and \$12,000,000 Sherman legal tenders should be taken up, and would, I dare say, like to see it done; but it is a conditional problem with him. These notes are simply a debt, and the only way to get rid of a debt is to pay it."

"How would you pay such a vast sum at one time?"

"I would issue long term 5 1/2 per cent gold bonds, and call those tenders in. Then these issues could be made gold certificates."

"Will Congress take any decisive action on the currency question?"

"Sentiment in favor of its doing so is growing at Washington, and I think the result will be some kind of action along the line of the President's suggestions."

"Will the McKinley bill produce enough revenue to pay current expenses?"

"All tariff bills are problematical. So far the bill has not been the success predicted for it, but as times improve, the revenue will increase, and it may produce better results."

Bryan in Mexico.

CITY OF MEXICO, Dec. 12.—Mr. Bryan and party arrived here over the Mexican National railway from Topeka, the capital of the state of Mexico, at 8:30 o'clock to-night. Col. Garza, of President Diaz's staff, in full uniform, greeted and welcomed Mr. Bryan in the name of the chief magistrate and escorted him to the president's private carriage. The famous Twenty-seventh regiment was stationed on the platform. Enthusiasm was great among the many Americans present and cheers and tigers for Bryan rent the air and loud calls were made for a speech. But he refused to talk and again he was escorted, Mrs. Bryan coming like the rest of the party. Nothing like to-night's demonstration has ever been seen here. President Diaz has given orders that Mr. Bryan shall be considered as a specially honored guest.

Mayor Van Weck Swears in.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—Robert A. Van Weck to-day took the oath of office as mayor of Greater New York before Justice Pitkin in the city court, to assume the duties of the office on January 1, 1898.

LONG EXPECTED.

General Sanguilly's Defection Does not Surprise Cubans.

HAS OFFERED HIS SERVICES

To Captain General Blanco—The Report is Confirmed by Deputy Amblard, of Spain, who Says He Counted Upon the Adherence of the General to the New Order of Things—Members of the Junta in New York Say that his Loyalty to the Cuban Cause has Been Under Suspicion for Some Time—General Gomez Being Closely Watched by General Pando's Forces.

HAYANA, Dec. 12.—It is announced semi-officially that General Sanguilly, the insurgent leader, has written to Marshal Blanco, tendering him his services unconditionally.

Later advices from Madrid seem to show that Deputy Amblard will be entrusted with the task of making new proposals to the Cuban Junta when he reaches New York. He is said to have informed the Spanish ministers that he counted upon the adherence of General Sanguilly to the new order of things, and if it is true that the latter has offered his services to the captain general the influence of Amblard at Madrid will be greatly increased.

AT JUNTA HEADQUARTERS

Cubans in New York Say Sanguilly Has Long Been Suspected.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—At the Cuban Junta headquarters and from other sources here it was learned that Sanguilly's loyalty to the Cuban cause has been under suspicion for some time, and that his reported action in offering his services unconditionally to General Blanco was by no means a surprise. Delegate Tomas Estrada Palma, however, speaking for publication, said that he could hardly believe that Sanguilly had capitulated, but that he did not attach much importance to the report even if true.

A Cuban merchant prominent among the revolutionists in this city, said that Sanguilly was not likely to go over again within the insurgent lines, and that whatever action he had taken would have no effect upon the leaders still in the field.

General Sanguilly was in New York until about a week ago. It was said at the Junta that Senor Angulo, referred to in the dispatch, was not a member of that body, which consists of only four members, Senor Angulo, according to the same authority, is a Cuban lawyer and man of letters, and is one of the editors of a journal called Cuba published in this city. This paper has been published in Spanish for the last three weeks. To-day it appears in English. It is directed by Senor Escovar, formerly of La Discusion, in Havana, and advocates the acceptance of the autonomy offers. It has no connection with the Junta.

COMET PUNISHED

Spanish Forces—Peace Commissioners Hanged by Insurgents.

HAYANA, Dec. 12.—It is officially announced that the Spanish forces under the command of General Pando, in the province of Puerto Principe, have been pushing the insurgent leader General Gomez, who they say he was obliged with about 200 men of his escort to seek refuge in the woods and mountains of Las Delicias.

The commissioners sent by General Pando to different parts of the island with instructions to negotiate with the insurgents for their acceptance of the autonomous form of government proposed by Spain, have not returned in a single case, which seems to confirm the reports that some of them have been killed by the insurgents, and others have elected to remain with the enemy.

It is reported that Juan Delgado, the insurgent leader, has hanged the two commissioners who were sent to him with peace propositions.

A dispatch recently received here from Madrid says that the autonomous cabinet for Cuba will not be formed until the reformists and autonomists unite in one party, and it is added that the reformist deputy Amblard, who is in Madrid, will on his arrival in New York offer to Manuel Rafael Angulo, a member of the Cuban revolutionary junta, a portfolio in the new Cuban cabinet, in order to induce him to return to Cuba.

Some of the richest Spaniards of Cuba have held further meetings at Cienfuegos and at Sagua, to consider the advisability of sending a petition to President McKinley, asking for the establishment of a United States protectorate over Cuba. If within six months the government plans for the pacification of the island give no results.

WHAT STOPPED THE TRIAL.

Attempt to Rehe a Kentucky Jury Try ing a Will Case.

CINCINNATI, O., Dec. 12.—A special to the Commercial Tribune from Paris, Ky., says: Great excitement was caused here to-night, when Hon. E. M. Dickson, attorney for defendant in the Thomas Woodford will case, asked Judge James E. Cantill, to discontinue the trial until an investigation could be had, as he had information that there had been an effort to bribe members of the jury.

The judge sent the jury out, put Mr. Dickson under oath and asked him the source of his information. Dickson stated he was in honor bound not to divulge the name of his informant. The court threatened imprisonment, and the attorney stated that W. R. Thomas, son of Senator-elect J. M. Thomas, had told him that Hon. John T. Hinton, member of the legislature, and J. Hal Woodford, one of the beneficiaries of the will, and a prominent farmer and turkman, were charged with attempting the bribery. The court issued a rule against Hinton, Woodford and Thomas, returnable at 5 o'clock to-morrow. The estate involved is estimated at \$200,000.

French Steamer Overdue.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—The French line steamer La Touraine, which sailed from New York December 4 for Havre, and which was due to arrive at Havre yesterday morning, has not been reported. No anxiety is felt for the safety of the steamer, as all the Atlantic liners have been arriving late on account of the bad weather encountered during the week. The La Touraine is a very staunch vessel, only about six years old and having the best record in her line both east and west between New York and Havre. La Touraine's passenger list included forty people in her first cabin, thirty-seven in the second cabin and 212 in the steerage. She carries 250 of a crew.

STARVATION AHEAD

In the Yukon Gold Fields—Little Food at Escorted Prices.

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 12.—By steamer Topeka from Dyea, news is received that no more than a thousand ill-provisioned men stampeded from Dawson during the latter part of October and impelled by the haunting fears of famine are now madly forcing their way over the mountains.

Auk, the Indian mail carrier who brings this report, left the Yukon capital fully ten days after the Dalton party. He says the vanguard of the terror stricken army is following less than a week behind him. Auk declares that fully 25 per cent of the stampeding army will never live to recall the terrors of their flight north. The river steamer Bella and Weaver. It now appears did not land more than 100 tons of provisions on their arrival in Dawson in the early part of October, owing to their being held up at Circle City.

The latest information from the mining district bears date of October 17, when it is reported there was not on sale in the stores of Dawson, or those accessible to the mining region a single pound of bacon, beans or flour, and that those miners who had been in the territory contiguous to Dawson depending on the stores there for their usual winter's supply, found it impossible to purchase any supplies whatever, except in rare instances from friends or individuals who thought they had surplus, and the cost of food for the bare necessities of life even under these circumstances was exorbitant and almost prohibitory. Fifty-pound sacks of flour selling at \$100 to \$125.

Although there are many tons of supplies at Port St. Michaels, about 1,707 miles from Dawson City down the Yukon it will be impossible to get any food from that point before next summer.

Snow Locomotives to Klondike.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 12.—The plan of using steam snow locomotives to open and maintain communication between the outside world and the Klondike country, has not been abandoned by any means. Secretary Alger was in consultation to-day with several representatives of a company which has already made ten of these unique locomotives and the secretary, who is intensely solicitous to extend aid to the miners who are supposed to be suffering from lack of food, authorized them to proceed to ship the machines to Alaska and make the effort to get through to the interior.

Hayti's New Ministry.

PORT AU PRINCE, Dec. 12.—A proclamation was published here at noon to-day announcing the composition of the new Haytian ministry, as follows:

Minister of the interior, M. Auguste Tancrède.

Minister of commerce and finance, M. Palenque.

Minister of exterior relations and worship, M. Brutus St. Victor.

Minister of war and marine, M. Guillaume Verbur, who is now president of the chamber.

Minister of public works and agriculture, M. Cincinnatus Leconte.

Minister of justice and public instruction, M. Antoine Carêmeau.

The Partition of China.